



2015

**HOLIDAY
GUIDE**

to giving & volunteering

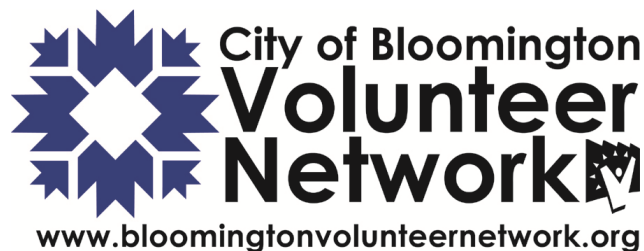
Give back.

Tis the season of gratitude and giving.

Across our community, people with full hearts and tummies are thinking about ways to give back this season. The Holiday Guide to Giving and Volunteering is here to help.

Throughout the year, our community's helping organizations have shown the true spirit of giving by offering the needed services that make our community a caring place to live, while asking for very little in return.

Embrace the season; the holidays are a perfect time to give back.



5 Things You Need to Know

BEFORE You Volunteer this Holiday Season

Often times the holidays are a time of year when people are reminded and inspired to give back to others. Volunteering is an awesome way to do that, and we want to make sure you have a great time, so before you reach out to your local food bank, soup kitchen, thrift store or meal delivery program – read these tips.

1. We hate to break it to you, but you're not the only one out there with the idea to volunteer during the holidays.

Many 'day-of' holiday shifts are already filled – and have been for weeks. There are still many holiday themed options available though, so start NOW to find a volunteer project that you're interested in and secure a spot. Otherwise, by the time you try to volunteer, all of the spots could be taken. There are many options just waiting for you to sign up in the Holiday Guide to Giving and Volunteering.

2. When you reach out to a nonprofit to request to volunteer, please be patient.

Volunteer coordinators are likely being inundated with requests to volunteer, on top of trying to accomplish their day to day jobs. They want to respond as quickly as possible, but it may take more time than normal. Spread a little holiday joy and show up to your project with cookies or a thank you card!

3. Think outside the box.

Everybody wants to serve a meal on Thanksgiving Day, but there just isn't enough room for everyone to do the exact same volunteer project. Try volunteering on the day before, the day after or anytime during the holiday break. These are often the days when volunteers are truly needed the most! Or be unique and try something new. There's a lot of need, just not all of it involves a turkey or candy canes. Check out some of these holiday volunteering ideas and resources!

4. We think it's great you want to volunteer, and so do the nonprofits in our community.

These organizations rely on volunteer help to provide vital services to people in our community, but here's the catch: work is needed all year around, not just during the holiday season. Check out how you can help all year long.

5. Can't find a time for a volunteer project that works for everybody?

What about coordinating an "adopt a family" or "Community Wish List" project? You can rally your co-workers, friends, family and network to provide items that allow each family and each nonprofit in our community to celebrate this holiday season. See the Holiday Guide to Giving and Volunteering and the Community Wish List for where your help is needed.

No matter what you do or how you do it, we hope volunteering is included in your holiday plans this year.

INDEX OF HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Organization and program descriptions are listed alphabetically on the pages that follow

HOLIDAY DONATIONS: Gift Giving,
Sorting or Collecting

Adopt-A-Child & Adopt-A-Family

- Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington
- City of Bloomington Latino Programs and Outreach
- Middle Way House, Inc.
- Monroe County United Ministries
- New Hope Family Shelter
- Positive Link
- Salvation Army

Donation Drives

- **Amethyst House**
food, holiday items, personal items
- **Bloomington Animal Care and Control**
pet food and supplies
- **Bloomington Transit**
stuff a bus with children's toys and clothes
- **Christmas for the Kids, Inc.**
new unwrapped toys
- **City of Bloomington Latino Programs and Outreach**
children's toys and clothes
- **Community Kitchen of Monroe County**
food and canned goods
- **Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County**
food donations for homebuilders
- **Indiana Army National Guard Family Readiness Group**
\$10 gift cards, \$25 grocery cards, baby blankets
- **Life Designs, Inc.**
gifts for men, women and children, wrapping supplies
- **Middle Way House, Inc.**
new unwrapped toys, gifts for mothers & children
- **Monroe County United Ministries**
winter food drive
- **New Hope Family Shelter**
Walmart gift cards, clothes, food
- **Positive Link**
food, toiletries, personal items
- **Shalom Community Center**
winter clothes, boots, backpacks, sleeping bags
- **Shop with a Cop**
monetary donations for shopping spree
- **South Central Community Action Program**
children's winter outerwear, toys
- **Stepping Stones**
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- **Wheeler Mission**
food

HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERING

November

Thanksgiving Meal Service or Delivery

- Area 10 Agency on Aging
- Community Kitchen of Monroe County, Inc.
- Cry of the Children – Nov 14
- Shalom Community Center
- Wheeler Mission

Special Events

- **City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation** – *Holiday Market*
- **Salvation Army** – *Bell Ringing*
- **Wheeler Mission** – *donation sorting & distribution*

December

Christmas Day Meal Service or Delivery

- Area 10 on Aging
- Community Kitchen of Monroe County
- Shalom Community Center

Special Events

- **Bloomington Transit** – *Stuff A Bus*
- **Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington** – *Winter Break Camp*
- **Christmas for the Kids, Inc.** – *Live Auction*
- **Fair Trade Bloomington** – *Holiday Sale*
- **Girls Incorporated of Monroe County** – *Holiday Hoopla*
- **Life Designs, Inc.** – *gift wrapping days*
- **Middle Way House, Inc.** – *Shop-a-Rama*
- **Salvation Army** – *Bell ringing & toy sorting*

Holiday Community Wish List

Alpha by Agency

www.bloomingtonvolunteernetwork.org/CommunityWishList

Holiday Needs Assistance

See <http://bit.ly/HolidayNeeds211>



Amethyst House

PO Box 154, Bloomington, IN 47402

Mission: Our mission is to provide a foundation for sober living by partnering with individuals, families, and communities impacted by addictions and substance abuse issues, offering quality recovery services and guidance for clean, sober, and healthy living.

December: For our annual Holiday dinner we are requesting food items (i.e. ham, turkey, veggies), serving platters and serving utensils. Would need these items no later than Dec 12th.

Holiday decorations, trees, ornaments, lights (no candles). Needed by Dec 1st.

Personal hygiene products, bath towels, blankets, or hats / gloves / scarves would be great gifts for the actual residents. Any time would be good, unless they are for gifts, then would want them by Dec 19th.

Contact: Gina Lovell, Administrative Director, (812) 336-3570 ext 203, glovell@amethysthouse.org (www.amethysthouse.org)

Area 10 Agency on Aging

630 W. Edgewood Dr. Ellettsville, IN 47429

Mission: To serve as a leader in providing resources, solutions and connections for seniors, persons with disabilities and family caregivers living in Monroe and Owen counties.

November: Thanksgiving Day meals prepared by Community Kitchen will be given to homebound seniors in Owen and Monroe counties. Volunteers will pick up meals between 11 and 1 on Thanksgiving Day and deliver the meals to pre-registered senior citizens. Volunteers will also assist the days before and after Thanksgiving. Volunteers can fill out a volunteer application online at the Area 10 website: Area10Agency.org

December: Christmas Day meals prepared by Community Kitchen will be given to homebound seniors in Owen and Monroe counties. Volunteers will pick up the meals between 11 and 1 on Christmas Day and deliver the meals to pre-registered senior citizens. Volunteers can fill out a volunteer application online at the Area 10 website: Area10Agency.org

Contact: Laura Kray for volunteer drivers ((812) 876-3383 ext. 553, lkray@area10agency.org) (www.area10agency.org)

Bloomington Animal Care and Control

3410 S. Walnut St. Bloomington, IN 47401

Mission: To address and respond to all companion animals' needs through education and support in order to build a community where people value animals and treat them with kindness and respect.

Holiday Supply Drive: Thanksgiving to New Year's Day!

Collection boxes will be located around town where community members can donate needed items to help shelter animals! Donations are also accepted at the Bloomington Animal Shelter during business hours: Mon./Wed./Thur./Sat., 12pm to 5 p.m.; Tues./Fri., 12pm to 7 p.m.; Sun., 1 to 4 p.m. They are located at 3410 S. Walnut Street.

Items needed most:

Cat and dog toys, treats, canned food, dry food (open bags are okay); large rawhides, squeeze cheese, soft treats, clumping cat litter and strong litter scoops, pine pellet cat or horse litter, crates, metal exercise pens, blankets, comforters, towels, sheets, bleach, paper towels, Dawn dishwashing liquid, hand sanitizer, copier paper, envelopes, sharpies

December: Adopt. Love. Learn.

The Bloomington Animal Shelter will run multiple promotions throughout December, including the 12 Strays of Christmas. Check their Facebook page for up to date promotion information: www.facebook.com/COBAnimalShelter

Volunteering: They usually see a decline in volunteerism near the beginning of the year, so if you have free time, see their website to apply in January! Our volunteers spend the most one-on-one time with the animals, so they are integral to our success!

Contact: Jenny Gibson, (812) 349-3872, gibsonj@bloomington.in.gov (www.bloomington.in.gov/animalshelter)

Bloomington Transit

130 W. Grimes Lane Bloomington, IN 47403

December: Help Stuff the Bus with Toys! During the holiday season, Bloomington Transit will partner with WCLS 97.7 and the Salvation Army to help make the holidays a little brighter for children and families in need in Monroe County. The goal is to literally “stuff” a decorated Bloomington Transit bus completely full of donated unwrapped new toys, new children’s coats, mittens and gloves to be distributed in the Bloomington area. The Stuff-A-Bus event will kick-off on Dec. 2nd at WCLS 97.7. Those wishing to make a donation can either drop off their items at the bus between Dec. 2-13 (see www.bloomingtontransit.com for locations and times) or at Bloomington Transit’s main office. Volunteers are needed to staff the bus in two-hour increments to accept donations. Without this assistance, Stuff-A-Bus would not be possible.

Contact: Brenda Underwood, (812) 961-0523, bunder@bloomingtontransit.com (www.bloomingtontransit.com)

Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington

311 S. Lincoln Street; PO Box 1716 Bloomington IN 47401

Mission: The mission of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington is to empower all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as caring, productive, responsible citizens.

November-December Holiday Gift Assistance

Program: This program provides financial relief to families that would like to give gifts to their children for the holidays, but are unable to do so because of their financial situations. Individuals or groups adopt a child or family in need and provide gifts for them (between \$40-\$80/individual). Information about the child's age, gender, interests, clothing sizes, etc. will be provided to the adopting individuals to help with the gift buying. After individuals purchase the gifts, they are wrapped and dropped off at the Club labeled with the recipient's name. This is a great way for people to give back to their community and make a difference in others lives. It means so much to their kids and families.

December: Winter Break Camp: Lincoln Street Boys and Girls Club. Volunteers act as camp counselors and are paired with a staff member and group of 15-20 campers. Camp Days: Dec. 21, 22, and 23 from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Contact: Audrey Hall, (812) 332-5311 ext. 15, ahall@bgcbloomington.org (www.bgcbloomington.org)

Christmas for the Kids, Inc.

Various locations throughout Bloomington

Mission: Christmas for the Kids, Inc. collects new unwrapped toys and distributes them to needy children in Monroe and surrounding counties.

November & December: Beginning the day after Thanksgiving through Christmas, you can drop unwrapped toys off at locations around town — places such as The Herald-Times, Black Lumber, Liberty Family Dentist, Rural King, and Cummings Bookkeeping (Ellettsville) through Dec. 16. All gifts stay local!

December: Volunteers will help the live auction on December 6th, prepping the distribution location, sorting donations on bag and tag day, shopping for toys with donated funds, reminder calls to recipients, and as helpers on toy distribution day - Dec. 19th.

Contact: Bob Sutter, (812) 961-0552, rsutter208@aol.com

City of Bloomington Latino Programs and Outreach

401 N. Morton St. Suite 260 Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: The City of Bloomington Latino Programs and Outreach program was created to serve our community's rapidly growing Latino immigrant population as the liaison for the department and community organizations, providing support to the Spanish speaking population and promoting diversity and cultures.

December: Donations of new items such as children's clothing, toys and books are greatly appreciated. All donations are matched with families in need during the holidays. Clothing sizes: newborn-size 16. All donations will be due December 1st.

Contact: Araceli Gómez-Aldana,
latinoprograms@bloomington.in.gov, (812) 349-3860.
(www.bloomington.in.gov/latino)

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation

401 N. Morton St. Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: The City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department provides comprehensive programs that encompass educational, cultural, recreational, environmental, health, fitness, volunteer, and leadership opportunities.

November: The Holiday Market - Nov. 28

Volunteer elves decorate, serve refreshments, and assist with teardown at this Bloomington Community Farmers' Market event at Showers Plaza. Shifts are 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and noon-4 p.m. Minimum age is 16. Come dressed according to the weather. Don't forget your hats and gloves!

Contact: Julie Ramey, (812) 349-3719,
rameyj@bloomington.in.gov
(www.bloomington.in.gov/farmersmarket)

City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

401 N. Morton St. Suite 260 Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network mobilizes volunteers to address community issues and build on community assets. It is their aim to inspire, support and celebrate volunteerism in our community.

December/January: Community organizations need certain things to do their work, and to do it well. When you look at the Community Wish List, you will see that some of their needs are more obvious than others. The items requested range from the no-cost to the big-ticket, but they all need someone to gather them up! Why not be that someone? To organize a Holiday Wish List collection drive, first go to BloomingtonVolunteerNetwork.org and click on Community Wish List. Then organize a drive - large or small - within your school, family, work or faith community, or take the list along shopping and add a few extra items to your cart. Contact the organizations involved and arrange a good time to deliver. Mission accomplished - you've made a difference in the community and it is fun to play Santa!

Contact: Bet Savich, (812) 349-3472,
volunteer@bloomington.in.gov
(www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer)

Community Kitchen of Monroe County, Inc.

1515 S. Rogers St. Bloomington, IN 47403

Mission: "To work, alone and in collaboration with others, to eliminate hunger in Monroe County and surrounding areas through direct service, education and advocacy." Community Kitchen provides a free meal each day, Mon.-Sat. between 4-6 p.m. They also have several programs that provide meals to at-risk children and seniors.

November & December: donations of turkeys, hams, canned vegetables, stuffing mixes, cream soups and canned fruit are needed and appreciated. Any donation can be dropped off at their 1515 S. Rogers location, Mon.-Fri. after 8 a.m. and by 5:30 p.m., Saturday after 11a.m. and by 5:30 p.m.

November: Volunteers will assist with the traditional meal preparation and distribution. Shifts are two hours long between 10:30 a.m. -6:45 p.m. Assistance would also be appreciated the day before and after Thanksgiving.

December: Volunteers assist with the traditional meal served on Christmas Day. Shifts are two hours long between 10:30 a.m. -6:45 p.m.

Contact: Debbie Hopson, (812) 332-0999, debbie@monroecommunitykitchen.com (www.monroecommunitykitchen.com)

Cry of the Children

Mission: Cry of the Children improves the quality of life for adolescents in Bloomington by providing programs and services that enhance and promote the development of effective life and decision-making skills.

November: Volunteers will assist with our 9th Annual Thanksgiving Meal on November 14, 2015, start serving at 12-2pm at 111 N. Rogers at the Salvation Army. Arrival time for 4 volunteers is at 8:15am to prepare some items, other volunteers can arrive between 10-11am for serving.

Contact: Mrs. Boddie, (812) 332-0610, cryofthechildren@gmail.com (www.cryofthechildren.com)

Fair Trade Bloomington

Mission: Fair Trade Bloomington provides the opportunity to contribute to global poverty relief through education and promotion of products that adhere to fair trade principles.

December: Students will assist with the 11th annual Fair Trade Holiday Sale in the Frangipani Room of the Indiana Memorial Union on Dec. 2 between 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and on Dec. 3 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Contact: Macaira O'Connell, macoconn@indiana.edu or Mary Embry, membry@indiana.edu (www.fairtradebloomington.org)

Girls Inc of Monroe County

1108 W. 8th Street Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: Serving nearly 500 girls in Monroe County, Girls Inc. provides exciting research-driven programming and sound mentoring in a supportive all-girl environment to inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold.

December: All are warmly invited to join Girls Inc. in ringing in the holiday season at Holiday Hoopla, from

9-11:30 a.m. on Dec. 12 throughout Fountain Square Mall. This is a joyous, family-oriented event which requires a great deal of volunteer assistance The Hoopla includes a pancake breakfast, a "kids only" shopping area where kids get to shop for gifts for their family and nothing sells for over \$5.00, entertainment, a raffle, and a gingerbread house event for the kids.

Contact: June Taylor, (812) 336-7313, jtaylor@monroe.girls-inc.org or Kristi McCann, kmccann@monroe.girls-inc.org (www.girlsinc-monroe.org)

Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County

213 E. Kirkwood Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47408

Mission: Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County promotes home ownership by building houses in partnership with families in need of adequate housing. Their mission is to build simple, decent, affordable homes for people in need.

November & December: Office volunteers are needed in November and December to help with the annual holiday mailing. Food donations for volunteer homebuilders are always welcome.

Contact: Sarah Young, vsl@monroecountyhabitat.org; (812) 331-4069 ext 202, (www.monroecountyhabitat.org)

Indiana Army National Guard Family Readiness Group

3380 S. Walnut St. Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Mission: Provides activities, increases the resiliency of soldiers/families, provides tools for adjusting to military deployments/separations, and enhances the well-being/morale of the unit.

December: Items requested: gift cards (\$10 value) for military children for holiday party, baby blankets (handmade quilts, fleece or purchased) to provide military families that have added a bundle of joy to their families, and Kroger, Marsh, Meijer, or Walmart gift cards (\$25 value) for struggling military families.

Contact: Rachel Connor Nelson, (812) 325-4896, rcn.frg@gmail.com

Life Designs, Inc.

PO Box 1732200 E. Winslow Dr. Bloomington, IN 47401

Mission: LIFE Designs partners with people of all ages and abilities to lead meaningful and active lives.

LIFEDesigns is requesting donations of holiday gifts for men, women, and children. Many people with disabilities struggle to find friendships, and some don't even have family members to spend their holidays with. LIFE Designs ensures all of our customers experience a bit of holiday cheer and receive at least one gift. We can't do this alone, we need community members to help brighten the holidays for people of ALL abilities.

Gifts, wrapping paper, bows, and gift boxes may be dropped off at LIFEDesigns main office at 200 E. Winslow Rd., Bloomington, IN 47401 between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:00 pm. Gifts must be received by December 4th, and will be distributed to the people in need before December 25th.

Throughout the month of December, volunteers are needed to help wrap gifts.

Contact: Stephanie Shelton, (800) 875-9615, sshelton@lifedesignsinc.org (www.lifedesignsinc.org)

Middle Way House, Inc.

Mission: To end violence, both structural and interpersonal in the lives of women and children. Middle Way House provides safe emergency shelter for women and their dependent children who are fleeing domestic violence.

December:

Adopt-A-Family: Make Christmas brighter for a family in the emergency crisis shelter. **Contact:** Liz Franklin, 336-0846 or 812-333-7404. (www.middlewayhouse.org)

SHOP-A-RAMA Toys: New toys are needed for 60 children to 'shop' for their families. Baby toys through high school aged toys are welcome. Gifts for the mothers of the children are also requested. Donations can be dropped off at their transitional housing facility, "The Rise", at 401 S. Washington by Dec. 21.

SHOP-A-RAMA Volunteers will wrap presents on the day of the event, Dec. 22, from 6-8 p.m.

Contact: Monte Simonton, (812) 337-4510 (www.middlewayhouse.org)

Monroe County United Ministries

827 W. 14th Court Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: Monroe County United Ministries provides quality affordable childcare for working families and basic needs assistance for those in crisis.

November & December: Volunteers will transport food drive donations from the winter food drive collection sites to MCUM's pantry. Non-perishable food, cleaning supplies and hygiene products are welcome. Pickup can be arranged for large drives. Schedule is flexible but times are usually during business hours. Volunteers will also sort food donations in the Emergency Food Pantry during and after the Winter Food Drive. Volunteer anytime Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and some Sat. mornings.

Contact: Steve Thomas, sthomas@MCUM.org

Adopt-A-Family: Donors can adopt a family enrolled in MCUM's accredited Childcare Program by purchasing 3-5 gifts for each parent and child in the family. A list of family members and gift suggestions will be sent to you. Donors deliver wrapped gifts to MCUM. Holiday food basket donations are also welcome. Sign-up forms are available on MCUM's website: www.mcum.org.

Contact: Katie Broadfoot, (812) 339-3429 ext. 18, kbroadfoot@mcum.org (www.mcum.org)

New Hope Family Shelter

PO Box 154, Bloomington, IN 47402

Mission: Our mission is to provide temporary shelter for homeless families in Bloomington and Monroe County and, in collaboration with other agencies, to help those families regain housing by addressing the problems that led to homelessness.

December: Because many of our families are in an urgent and stressful situation, we request Walmart gift cards or resident specific donations (through calls or emails to our offices). One of our staff or board members will accompany parents on shopping trips.

Adopt A Family: Meeting needs around the holidays is challenging at New Hope, for both families and

staff. In a sense, we are similar to first responders; our families are experiencing the crisis of homelessness. Our families are often in a crisis so great they don't have time to think about planning for anything outside of basic needs. Many of our families were living in motels, in vehicles, camping or were suddenly kicked out of a space they thought they would be living in arriving at New Hope just days before Christmas. Often these families miss sign up deadlines in September or October for toy lists or donations of holiday meals.

Taking parents out to allow them to choose gifts for their children is the greatest gift any person could share, because it gives our parents the last dignity they often have - choice.

We are asking for your help by adopting one of our families, persons interested can contact the Executive Director to ask for specific needs.

Collection Drive: We also could use gloves, hats, and scarves, and candy for stockings. For our holiday meal, we could use 12 Turkeys (meat is always a bonus during the holidays).

Contact: Elaine Guinn, Executive Director, (812) 334-9840, director@nhfsinc.org
(www.newhopefamilyshelter.org)

In addition to a gift, this year they are hoping to also provide a food /daily living gift basket to each person and/or family (food, toiletries, cleaning supplies, etc.). This will require some food drives in order to accomplish.

Donors may express an interest in "adopting" a client, a family or both (this year they have many more clients with children than in past years) and will receive an individual's "wish list" via email.

Contact: Amy Hays, (812) 353-3218 or
IUHgiftsofgrace@gmail.com
(<http://iuhealth.org/bloomington/about/community-health/hiv-aids-positive-link/>)

Positive Link

*333 East Miller Drive, Indiana University Health,
Bloomington, IN 47401*

Mission: Positive Link provides social services for those living with HIV including social support, medication assistance and adherence tools, food and nutritional needs, housing and utility assistance, advocacy, and mental health and substance use counseling and referrals.

November & December: *Gifts of Grace* is a holiday gift drive that links community member gift donations to individuals living with HIV/AIDS in Bloomington and the surrounding counties. Gifts of Grace donations vary in cost. Their clients, with their children and families, complete a "wish list" which is coded and given to donors. Client's "wishes" can vary from gift cards for gas and/or food and nutrition needs to clothes, coats, shoes, housing items and entertainment gift cards. Eighty percent of our clients (and their affected families) live on or under Indiana's poverty level. Many of their "wishes" are actual necessities.

Salvation Army

111 N. Rogers St. PO Box 2117 Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

November & December:

Bell Ringers

Traditional kettles and holiday bells will ring in a new season from Nov. 13- Dec. 23 at sites around Monroe County. Come join over 400 of your neighbors to spread the cheer of the season with The Salvation Army. Visit www.registertoring.com to sign up.

Adopt an Angel Tree Child or Tree for Your Workplace, Church or Organization

There is still a great need for individuals, families, local businesses, and other organizations to sponsor Angel Tree tags. Each tag represents a needy child in Monroe County and lists his or her age, clothing sizes, and toy wish list. This program relies on the selfless giving and support of the community to bring joy and happiness to those less fortunate. Beginning Nov. 2nd, Angel tags can be picked up at The Salvation Army (111 N. Rogers St.) between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Gifts should be delivered to the Salvation Army by Dec. 10.

December:

Sort Toys for Children

Volunteers will sort, arrange, and distribute donated toys, games, stuffed animals and warm clothes and other gifts from Dec. 8-16. Day and evening shifts are available and scheduling is very flexible. Items will be distributed to the families on Dec. 17.

Contact:

Sign up for any volunteer shifts online by visiting www.bloomington.salvationarmyindiana.org and clicking on "Ring a Bell for The Salvation Army" button or contact Peter Iversen at peter_iversen@usc.salvationarmy.org or (812) 336-4310 ext. 102 (www.bloomingtonsa.org)

Shalom Community Center

620 S. Walnut St. Bloomington, IN 47401

Mission: A safe daytime shelter and resource center for people experiencing homelessness and poverty.

Volunteering:

November: Thanksgiving Meal - Kitchen volunteer positions are filled for the day-of, but volunteers are still needed on the days leading up to and after Thanksgiving Day.

December: Christmas Day Brunch Volunteers- Kitchen volunteer positions are filled for the day-of, but volunteers are still needed on the days leading up to and after Christmas Day.

Collection Drive: coats, gloves, hats, underwear, gloves, socks, boots, backpacks, and sleeping bags. food donations of turkeys, ham, fresh fruit, holiday pies, cakes, jams, jellies, canned vegetables, and cream of mushroom soup.

For Christmas Brunch: hams, pork sausage (for gravy), canned vegetables, jellies and jams, holiday treats (pies, cakes, candies), hot chocolate mix, salad dressings

Contact for Meal Program: Mark Emerson, (812) 334-5728 ex. 23 mark@shalomcommunitycenters.org (www.shalomcommunitycenter.org)

Shop with a Cop

FOP 88, PO Box 1561, Bloomington, IN 47402

Mission: Our mission is to provide a joyful holiday for underprivileged children in the Monroe County area who, without this program, may not experience one. It also provides a positive setting for children to interact with law enforcement officers.

November/December: "Shop with a Cop" is designed to pair less fortunate children with local law enforcement officers in a positive shopping experience to provide clothing necessities these children so desperately need. This not only provides the child with the much needed items, but also helps build a trusting relationship between the police officers, the child, and the child's family. "Shop with a Cop" is fully funded by community donations and a 10% purchase discount courtesy of the Bloomington

Wal-Mart Supercenter. Monetary donations are encouraged and needed prior to December 14th. Donations with cash or by check can be dropped off at the Bloomington Police Department, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Ellettsville Police Department, or sent to the following address: "Shop with a Cop", Don Owens, Memorial Lodge 88, Fraternal Order of Police, Inc., PO Box 1561, Bloomington, IN 47402

Contact: Jason Shaevitz, FOP President, (812) 349-3322, jasonshaevitz@fop88.org (www.fop88.org/shopwithacop)

South Central Community Action Program – Head Start

1500 W. 15th St, Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: Provides opportunities for low-income citizens to move toward personal and economic independence.

November & December: Volunteers organize collection drives for children's items, including: boys and girls winter coats (sizes 0-5), children's hats/gloves, children's winter boots (sizes 8 and up), and toys children ages 0-5. Please deliver to 1500 W. 15th St.

Contact: Anna Donley at: annad@insccap.org, or (812) 334-8350 ext. 216 (www.insccap.org)

Stepping Stones

Mission: To provide individualized support for youth aged 16-20 experiencing homelessness in safe, service-enriched, transitional housing where they develop life skills through supportive relationships for future independent living, with the goal of breaking the cycles of poverty and homelessness

November: For the month of November our residents are beginning to feel the cold move in! We are requesting Winter Coats, Warm Socks, Hats, Gloves and Scarves for our residents. Contact Melissa Paneto at mpaneto@steppingstones-inc.org for specific sizes.

December: We will have 3-4 new residents move in during the month of November to January. We are requesting welcome baskets for our residents when they arrive. Welcome baskets are comprised of: Twin XL Size Bed Sheets and Comforters, Pillows,

Microwave, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Body Lotion, Razors, Tupperware, Grocery Bag Holders, Fans, Personal Trash Can, Trash Bags, Extension Cord 3 Prong Power Strip, Sponges, Shower Mat Inside The Shower, Baking Pans, Bowls, Skillets, 3 Hole Punchers, Scissors, and Vacuums.

Contact: Melissa Paneto, (812) 339-9771, MPaneto@steppingstones-inc.org, for inquiries or drop off times.

Wheeler Mission Backstreet Shelter for Men and Agape House for Women

*(Men) 215 S. Westplex Ave. Bloomington, IN 47404;
(Women) 400 Opportunity Lane, Bloomington, IN 55008*

Mission: To provide Christ-centered programs and services for the homeless and those in need.

October & November: Food collected for Thanksgiving food baskets.

Nov. 13, 6 p.m.: volunteers will sort food donations for Thanksgiving baskets. Location: Agape House - 400 Opportunity Lane

Nov. 21, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.: volunteers will distribute baskets. Location: Agape House – 400 Opportunity Lane

Nov. 26: volunteers will cook, serve and clean up Thanksgiving Day meal served at Geno's Cafeteria 215 S Westplex Ave. Meal served: 11:00am-1:00pm

Contact: Tammy Ellis, (317) 546-4855, tammyellis@wmm.org